

**CITY OF MASON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 10, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Chaplain Tom Moll opened the meeting in prayer. All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE**

The following members of Council were present: Barbara Spaeth, Rich Cox, Tom Grossmann, Charlene Pelfrey, Don Prince, and David Nichols. Victor Kidd was absent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the February 24, 2014 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to approve the March 10, 2014 Special Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Spring break for Mason and Kings Schools is the week of March 24. In order to minimize scheduling conflicts, Council may wish to cancel the regularly scheduled March 24 meeting. There are currently no legislation deadlines that will require attention earlier, although a Council work session may be needed. A motion to cancel the March 24 Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Eric Hansen will be out of town the week of March 23 – March 30. Council will need to appoint someone to act as City Manager in his absence. A motion to appoint Jennifer Heft as Acting City Manager from March 23-30 was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

The next Area Progress Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26.

The Annual Employee Appreciation Event will take place on Sunday, April 6 from 4:00 to 8:00.

Mason City Tax Returns are due Tuesday, April 15. Residents are encouraged to file early before the deadline. The Mason Tax Office offers “free” assistance to residents in completing their Mason tax return. Residents can have their taxes calculated and filed online by visiting the City’s website. The Tax Office is offering residents extended office hours on Saturday, April 12 from 8:00 a.m. to noon and on Tuesday, April 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The *Race to Anyplace* event on Saturday at the Community Center had 37 teams registered with 450 people participating. The event raised \$46,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Those that have survived as well as those that have lost the battle were honored at the event. There was 43.6” of recorded snowfall in the 2013-2014 season compared to 16.4” of snowfall in 2012-2013. This season’s snow removal efforts required 5400 tons of salt, 5100 gallons of fuel,

and 22,000 miles driven compared to last season's 836 tons of salt, 1000 gallons of fuel, and 4700 miles driven. The City's incident command structure for snow removal proved to be necessary this season with a 24-hour shift rotation coordinated across multiple departments. Some resources, such as building inspections, are diverted as snow removal becomes the top priority for every department. The City continues to evaluate snow removal practices looking for strategic changes that provide quality service at minimal cost. One change implemented is that crews no longer completely clear out snow in cul-de-sacs. It takes crews 78 labor hours to completely clean out the 311 cul-de-sacs in the City.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Pelfrey stated that the Bicentennial Committee met and has begun discussions on sponsorships.

Councilmember Spaeth announced that the Parks and Recreation Board will recognize Chrissy Avery as the new Director of Parks and Recreation with a reception at 6:30 on Thursday.

### **PRESENTATION OF WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY PROCLAMATION**

Chrissy Avery introduced Amy Iten, a Mason resident instrumental in bringing World Down Syndrome Day to the Community Center. Ms. Iten thanked City Council for recognizing World Down Syndrome Day and stated that tonight's proclamation shows the City's commitment to people with Down Syndrome. She thanked Chrissy for helping with the March 21<sup>st</sup> event, which is expected to be bigger than last year's event. She listed many activities that demonstrate Mason community's inclusionary spirit and recognize the value of every neighbor and citizen. She introduced two Mason teens, Kendra and Carson, who spoke about the many activities they enjoy. Jim Hudson, Executive Director of the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati, stated that for 32 years the organization has served 12 counties to empower, educate, enhance, and celebrate the extraordinary lives of people with Down Syndrome. Mayor Nichols presented a plaque proclaiming March 21<sup>st</sup> as World Down Syndrome Day in the City of Mason.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS** - none

### **RESOLUTION 2014-3 PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF POST-ISSUANCE COMPLIANCE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR TAX EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS**

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Jennifer Heft stated that the City of Mason's bond counsel, Peck, Shaffer & Williams, LLP, recommends that the City Mason adopt post-issuance compliance policies and procedures for its tax exempt debt. The IRS has indicated more stringent review of tax-exempt obligations during audits. She explained that having formalized policies and procedures in place provides an initial level of confidence in the safeguarding of City assets. The Post-Issuance Compliance and Procedures for the City has been reviewed and recommended for adoption by Joe Reigelsperger, Finance Director and Jeff Forbes, Law Director.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2014-3 was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**RESOLUTION 2014-4 PROCLAIMING SUPPORT OF STATE ISSUE 1 AMENDING THE OHIO CONSTITUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE STATE TO FINANCE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Eric Hansen explained that the purpose of Resolution 2014-4 is to generate public attention and support for the *Public Infrastructure Capital Improvements* bond issue, which is Issue 1 on the May 6<sup>th</sup> ballot. Issue 1 is for the funding of public infrastructure capital improvements by permitting the issuance of General Obligation Bonds. He stated that this is the third renewal of the State Capital Improvements Program (SCIP) and if approved would fund the program at the highest level in over 25 years with about \$1.9 billion generated over the next ten years. The City oversees many capital improvement projects for streets, stormwater, utilities, and traffic signals that receive significant SCIP funds. Over the last 15 years, close to \$8 million of SCIP funds have been used in almost every major transportation project in the City of Mason.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2014-4 was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2014-14 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BARRETT PAVING MATERIALS, INC., FOR THE 2014 STREET RESURFACING PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,484,710**

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Richard Fair addressed Council and stated that the 2014 Budget included a total of \$1,325,000 for work related to the Annual Street Resurfacing Program. The base budget is \$850,000 with an additional \$150,000 for a possible secondary street maintenance program, \$50,000 for paving of cart paths at the Golf Center, \$25,000 for shoulder work, \$150,000 for the addition of turn lanes on SR-741 for the Municipal Services Facility, \$50,000 to extend the bike path along Nixon Park, and \$50,000 in repairs to the park's access drive. Richard stated that the majority of work is resurfacing Mason-Montgomery Road from Tylersville to Socialville-Fosters at an estimated cost of \$700,000 and requiring 7.5 lane miles of asphalt. Additional streets to be resurfaced include Dr. Frank Batsche Way, Short Street alleys, and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He explained that \$250,000 will be used to repair streets, including pothole repair. Richard explained two reasons that the bid is \$161,000 over budget. He stated that staff has been working with Reliance Medical

regarding access drives off of Sports Complex Drive to their facility. Medical Reliance has agreed to reimburse the City for this work in an amount of \$70,693. The second item includes the resurfacing of roads in the area of the downtown watermain project. Richard explained that when Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) completes the project, half the roadway of Short Street, South West Street, 2nd Avenue, 4th Avenue will require resurfacing. While the City did not intend to resurface these roadways for 2 to 3 years, it would be prudent to pave the other half of the roadway in conjunction with GCWW's project at an estimated cost of \$65,000. Richard explained that if the City's bid for the work is lower than GCWW's the entire roadway work for these streets will be included in the City's resurfacing program. If GCWW is able to obtain a lower price for the work, these entire roadways will be resurfaced under GCWW's contract and additional legislation will likely be needed. Richard stated that a significant amount of traffic maintenance, at an estimated cost of \$40,000, will be necessary for Mason-Montgomery Road resurfacing and has been included in the asphalt price per ton this year. If this is removed from the bid price, the actual asphalt price is the same as last year and staff recommends taking advantage of this pricing by authorizing the additional \$150,000 secondary street maintenance program funds. Richard stated that paving the new Municipal Services Facility parking lot has been included as part of the street resurfacing program.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Councilmember Cox asked if enough funds have been designated to repair pot holes. Richard Fair stated that \$250,000 has been set aside for these repairs that will begin in 30 days.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-14 was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**ORDINANCE 2014-15 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RICHARDS ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY, INC., FOR THE PURCHASE OF SEVENTEEN (17) DECORATIVE STREET LIGHTS AND ASSOCIATED MATERIALS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$66,338**

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Richard Fair addressed Council and stated that in 2008 the City attempted to implement an annual street light replacement program. However, with the downturn in the economy the program was placed on hold from 2009-2012. The program was reestablished in 2013 with \$75,000 spent and the 2014 Budget includes \$75,000 to continue the program. He explained that there are 5-6 years left on the five-year Capital Budget that will spend \$75,000/year replacing lights that are 40-50 years old. This year's program will continue in the Bay Meadows area with replacement of twelve street lights on Tradewind Drive, St. Lawrence Drive, Britt Place, Leslie Court, and Forsythe Court. Richard stated that in addition to this year's street light program, Mason City School District has requested installation of street lights along Foxfield Drive from the Lou Eves Municipal Pool parking lot to a cross walk at Mason High School. He explained that with concerns about the safety of students walking from the pool parking lot to the high school, the School District has agreed to reimburse the City the cost of the poles, fixtures, associated materials and installation of five lights along Foxfield Drive. The City will maintain

the lights with the District paying for electric consumption. The School District's portion of material cost is approximately \$19,000. Staff obtained two bids for materials which includes the light poles and fixtures. Richards Electric Supply submitted a price of \$66,338 which was just \$1000 lower than the second bid. Richard stated that in addition to the poles and fixtures, RMW Excavating and Directional Drilling will provide the underground conduit work at an approximate cost of \$13,000 plus \$3,500 paid by the School District and Bright Street will provide the electrical work at a cost of \$13,950 plus \$10,000 paid by the School District. Total cost for the City's program is approximately \$74,288 with the School's portion estimated at \$32,500. Richard stated that the 2014 Budget included \$75,000 for the annual replacement program and if actual costs for the installation work is lower than current estimates, additional street lights may be purchased and installed on Tradewind at Jennings Court.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Prince, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Councilmember Cox inquired about the type of light and Richard Fair replied that the lights to be installed are standard City lights. With input from students in the audience, Council discussed the need for the additional lighting between student parking and the school. They discussed safety, when and how the lights would be activated, if the lights could be turned on/off for events, and maintenance. Richard Fair said that maintenance would require bulb replacement every 8-10 years, bases painted every 5 years, and that the poles are expected to last 30-40 years.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-15 was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

#### **ORDINANCE 2014-16 PRELIMINARY LEGISLATION PROVIDING CONSENT FOR BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM SERVICES**

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilmember Spaeth, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Richard Fair stated that the City currently has 20 bridges on the state inventory system that have at least a 10-foot span, support vehicular traffic, and are inspected every year. In 2011, Kurt Seiler and Craig Barksdale received ODOT training to become certified bridge inspectors, eliminating the need to hire a consultant for the required inspections. Richard explained that prior to staff receiving this certification the City was spending \$10,000 - \$15,000 annually for this work. This year, ODOT announced the launch of a new program that will take over the inspection of these bridges for the next year, saving City staff time and effort. City staff will still inspect ten pedestrian bridges within the City. Richard stated that this program is being funded 100% by ODOT and staff believes it will extend into additional years.

A motion to suspend the rule and allow for adoption after the first reading was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Cox. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

Councilmember Prince expressed suspicions that this program is being funded through some sort of residential tax, and is in fact not "free."

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-16 was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS.

**OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Cox thanked all those that participated on his *Race to Anyplace* team. He said that it was a fun event and that a lot of money was raised for a good cause.

Eric Hansen explained strategies for addressing the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation in the City. He said that for several years some City trees have been treated to protect them from infestation. Trees are being scheduled for removal and some of those will be replaced with a hardier species. The removal and replacement of City ash trees began last fall and continues this spring. This program includes trees in the Parks, Golf Course, and along the right-of-ways. Funds have been set aside for treatment, removal, and replacement of City ash trees.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Perry Schwartz of 6309 Tarton Fields Lane explained the effectiveness of available Emerald Ash Borer treatments and warned of the next invasive species, the Asian Longhorned Beetle. With regards to street lights, Perry expressed his opinion that residents would dislike the installation of bulbs with white glaring street lights in residential areas.

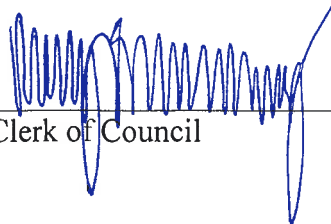
**EXECUTIVE SESSION: PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

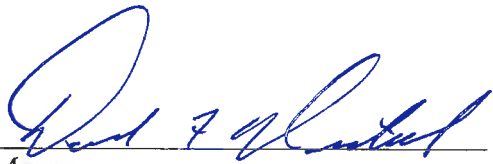
A motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing property acquisition was made by Councilmember Grossmann, seconded by Councilmember Pelfrey. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 8:28 p.m.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Prince. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:50 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Spaeth. VOTE: ALL YEAS. TIME: 9:50 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Mayor